

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of
Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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ALABAMA IS “MOST IMPROVED” IN WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, September 23, 2004 When it comes to workers’ compensation, Alabama is the “Most Improved” state in overall ranking, according to the new study, *2004 State Report Cards for Workers’ Compensation*. Alabama also was among nine states that received an “A” on 2002 report cards, based on data from the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) covering recordable injuries and illnesses for 2000, 2001, and 2002.

“The outstanding performance can mostly be attributed to the great strides Alabama has taken in improving underwriting and loss-control measures,” says Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, which administers the state’s Workers’ Compensation programs. “In addition, Alabama places a high priority on thorough follow-up on claims and paying attention to small details.”

In compiling the study, the Work Loss Data Institute, an independent database development company, compared six outcome measures among the states, including “incidence rates” and “cases missing work.”

Industrial Relations conducts four seminars yearly for claims adjusters, health care providers, and others who deal with workers’ compensation claims in Alabama. The seminars on handling, managing, and defending claims feature expert instruction by some of the state’s leading professionals in such fields as medicine and law.

A total of over 1,000 persons attended this year’s seminars. The seminars schedule for 2005 is expected to be released next January. For further information, contact LaDon Murray, Industrial Relations Workers’ Compensation Division, at 1-800-528-5166 or LMurray@dir.state.al.us.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers’ Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on Industrial Relations, visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.